

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION

JOSEPH KELLY DINGLER, §
Plaintiff, §
§
v. § No. 3:22-cv-01548-S (BT)
§
ROCKWALL COUNTY SHERIFF, §
Defendant. §

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATION
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Plaintiff Joseph Kelly Dingler, a former inmate at Rockwall County Jail, filed this *pro se* civil action under [42 U.S.C. § 1983](#). Dingler did not pay the filing fee. Having screened Dingler's complaint, the undersigned recommends the Court DISMISS the complaint as barred by the three-strikes provision of [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(g\)](#).

The "three strikes" provision of the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA), [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(g\)](#), precludes a prisoner from bringing a civil action *in forma pauperis* if on three or more prior occasions, while confined as a prisoner, he filed civil actions or appeals that were dismissed as frivolous, malicious, or for failure to state a claim. See [Jackson v. Johnson, 475 F.3d 261, 265 \(5th Cir. 2017\)](#). Section 1915(g) "comports with the PLRA's effort 'to filter out the bad claims filed by prisoners and facilitate consideration of the good.'" [Brown v. Megg, 857 F.3d 287, 291 \(5th Cir. 2017\)](#) (quoting [Coleman v. Tollefson, 575 U.S. 532, 135 S. Ct. 1759, 1762 \(2015\)](#)).

Dingler has accrued three strikes under § 1915(g). Before filing his complaint in this case, and while he was incarcerated as a prisoner, Dingler filed at least three other civil cases that were dismissed as frivolous or for failure to state a claim under [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(e\)](#). See *Dingler v. Bowles*, 113 F. App'x 6, 7 (5th Cir. 2004) (per curiam) (finding the dismissal of the plaintiff's appeal counted as one strike under § 1915(g), and he accumulated two additional strikes in *Dingler v. Bowles*, No. 04-10130 (5th Cir. June 22, 2004)). Because Dingler has accrued three strikes, § 1915(g) precludes him from proceeding in this action *in forma pauperis* unless he alleges he is in “imminent danger of serious physical injury” at the time of filing the complaint. See *Banos v. O'Guin*, 144 F.3d 883, 884 (5th Cir. 1998) (per curiam). To meet the imminent danger requirement of § 1915(g), the threat must be “real and proximate.” *Ciarpaglini v. Saini*, 352 F.3d 328, 330 (7th Cir. 2003); see also *Banos*, 144 F.3d at 885 (Under § 1915(g), the court “must determine if danger exists at the time the plaintiff seeks to file his complaint or notice of appeal IFP”) (emphasis in original). Allegations of past harm are insufficient to show imminent harm because the harm alleged must constitute “genuine emergencies” where “time is pressing.” *Heimermann v. Litscher*, 337 F.3d 781, 782 (7th Cir. 2003) (per curiam); see also *Banos*, 144 F.3d at 885 (finding the prisoner had “not alleged, much less established, that he faced imminent danger of serious physical injury at the time that his notice of appeal was filed”).

Here, Dingler does not allege that he was in imminent danger of serious physical injury at the time he filed his complaint. He is therefore barred from proceeding *in forma pauperis* under § 1915(g).

Recommendation

The Court should DISMISS this civil action as barred by the three-strikes provision of [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(g\)](#). Such dismissal is with prejudice to the refiling of an *in forma pauperis* complaint raising the same claims as presented here, but without prejudice to the refiling of this complaint with full payment of the \$402.00 filing fee.

Signed July 25, 2022.



REBECCA RUTHERFORD
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT

A copy of this report and recommendation shall be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of this report and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. *See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); FED. R. CIV. P. 72(b)*. To be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's report and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. *See Douglass v. United Services Automobile Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996), modified by statute on other grounds, [28 U.S.C. § 636\(b\)\(1\)](#) (extending the time to file objections to 14 days).